

IN HONOR OF BAYOU METO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON
THE CHURCH'S 125TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to the Bayou Meto United Methodist Church in DeWitt, Arkansas, where my parents were married, my family and I have attended for more than fifty years, and my brother Mark and his family are members. This month marks our church's 25th anniversary, a significant milestone for the congregation and the entire community.

The Bayou Meto United Methodist Church was organized in 1881 as the Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church South. The original 13 charter members chose the southwest corner of the Bayou Meto Cemetery to build a small wooden sanctuary of sawed boards. The sanctuary only had six windows, four of which were made of glass shipped by boat from St. Louis to Crockett's Bluff and hauled by ox wagon to the church site. The original building was heated by a wood stove and furnished with handmade pews and oil lamps.

The Bayou Meto United Methodist Church played a prominent role in the community during this time, serving as the local school until residents could build a school house elsewhere. The first minister, Reverend C.T. Thompson, traveled on horseback from Gold-man once a month to preach two services.

By 1915, the church community was anxious to expand. Mrs. Joe Webster donated one acre of land to the church and local residents moved the original building to a new location using horses and ropes. Just four years later, the congregation sold the church building as a private resident and built a new structure to accommodate the growing congregation. The original building still stands about 1,500 feet from its first location.

The new sanctuary included a bell tower and bell donated by a prominent Jewish merchant of DeWitt, Mr. T.M. Loeb. Although our community constructed Sunday school rooms, a pastor's study, and replaced the original church pews, the sanctuary is almost identical to the one constructed in 1919.

The Reverend C.H. Andrews became the church's first resident minister in 1939. During his tenure, the church constructed a parsonage, and a new education building. The church's current minister, Reverend Jackie Gregory, now occupies the parsonage and is the minister for both Bayou Meto and Lodge Corner Churches. The congregation continues to worship in the sanctuary, and the community frequently holds weddings, funerals, reunions, and meetings in both the sanctuary and education building.

The congregation has grown smaller over time as residents leave for larger towns, in search of job opportunities, schools, or greater convenience. As Lucinda Ax Jacobs wrote in her history of the Bayou Meto Cemetery, "Our Bayou Meto community was settled by former soldiers, both Union and Confederate, glad to find peace and a place they could build homes, raise families, and make an honest living for themselves." This phrase remains true for those of us who see this community as

their home, and intend to remain to raise our families and earn an honest living.

The Bayou Meto United Methodist Church has a long history, marked by the community's strong commitment to service. Every single building on the church property was constructed by the men in this community through hours upon hours of hard work and sacrifice. This spirit is unique to our church, and will guide the members in our congregation for years to come.

On May 28, 2006, our community will gather to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Bayou Meto United Methodist Church. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing this community on this important day in history, and to send our best wishes for a memorable service of homecoming and remembrance.

REMARKS IN HONOR OF JENNY CHIA-JEN CHANG

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former staffer who has touched my life and the lives of many others.

Jenny Chang was in the first class of Park Scholars at North Carolina State University, a Caldwell Fellow, student body president, senior class president, and dean's list student. She graduated in 2000 with a degree in biochemistry and minor in economics. She was also awarded a Truman Scholarship for graduate study. Jenny worked in my 2000 re-election campaign and then brought her talent, dedication, and cooperative spirit to my Washington office. Later, she moved to the office of the gentlewoman from New York, Carolyn Maloney.

On April 29, Jenny Chang died after a 4-year battle with breast cancer. She was 28 years old.

One of the things that made Jenny such a remarkable young woman was her grace. She confronted death in the same way she lived life: with candor, with faith, and without mincing words. Knowing that her time with us was probably short, she wasted not a single opportunity whether traveling to the places she longed to see, savoring a good meal, or sharing her love with the people she cherished.

Along the way, Jenny befriended countless breast cancer survivors who were as exhausted by battling bureaucracy as they were from fighting cancer. She was a compassionate warrior. She would visit sister patients in the hospital, even when her energy was diminished by that day's rigorous chemotherapy treatment. She would take a book or just sit quietly nearby, offering support and complete understanding.

Jenny was outraged that we live in a nation where almost 213,000 women this year will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 41,000 will die from the disease. Still, she believed in the power of public policy to create change. She requested that memorial contributions in her honor be made to a scholarship fund to provide a stipend to students in public policy internships.

We honor Jenny by remembering that when we consider funding and policy questions re-

garding research on breast cancer and other dread diseases, we must get beyond the abstractions of budgets and ideologies. We're talking about the lives of loved ones, friends and co-workers. Despite extraordinary advances in medicine and technology, there is still much we do not know. Jenny tried every therapy available to her, but there was no cure.

Jenny was a leader and expected leaders to be good stewards of their power. It stuns us that she is gone, but her legacy of courage, honesty, kindness, and purpose rekindle our efforts and inspire our leadership. We will do better in her name.

HONORING THE CAMDEN NA- TIONAL BANK ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Camden National Bank, on the occasion of its 100th year. On May 12, 1906, the United States Department of the Treasury issued a charter for the operation of the Camden National Bank. Since that time, the bank has been a "home-owned, home-operated bank" with faithful and loyal employees.

Throughout the bank's existence, it has overcome periods of serious financial instability including the boll weevil infestation, the Great Depression, and the war years. Although the bank has faced such challenges in the past, it continues to grow and prosper. In March 2004, the Camden National Bank opened its first branch in Greenville, Alabama.

One of the most remarkable qualities of the Camden National Bank is its list of faithful employees. In its 100 years of existence, the bank has seen only four presidents. The first president elected was Mr. Edwin Walker Berry, a former high school principal and mayor of Camden. Upon Mr. Berry's retirement in 1934, Mr. Joseph McReynolds Moore was elected president of the bank, followed by Mr. A.L. (Les) Johnson, Sr. in 1952, and Mr. A.L. Johnson, Jr. who remains president today.

In addition to the presidents, vice presidents, and founding directors, there are several other employees that have substantially contributed to the growth and success of the bank. For example, the bank's first employee, Mrs. Dorothy McNeil, was hired as the bookkeeper in 1941. The Hugh C. Dale Directors' Building was named to honor Mr. Hugh C. Dale and his years of service, including 43 years as a director. Mrs. Barbara Ivey was elected vice president and cashier in 1972 becoming the first female vice president of the Camden National Bank. Also, Mrs. Lola Saulsberry was the first African American employee of the bank when she was hired in 1982 and was later elected assistant cashier in 1995.

The Camden National Bank, over its 100 years, continues to have a "hometown bank" atmosphere. With the help of its loyal employees who have contributed to its success, the Camden National Bank continues to thrive in its accomplishments and its service to the people of Camden and Wilcox County. It is my